

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a side plan view of an embodiment of a catheter of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a side cross-sectional view of the needle control handle where the needle electrode assembly is in a retracted position.

FIG. 2A is an exploded view of Area A of FIG. 2.

FIG. 2B is an exploded view of Area B of FIG. 2.

FIG. 2C is an exploded view of Area C of FIG. 2.

FIG. 3 is a schematic side cross-sectional view of the distal end of the distal shaft, including the proximal end of the mapping assembly.

FIG. 4 is a side cross-sectional view of the thermocouple mounted in the needle electrode assembly.

FIG. 5 is a side cross-sectional view of the catheter body, including the junction between the proximal shaft and the distal shaft.

FIG. 6 is an end cross-sectional view of the distal shaft of the catheter body shown in FIG. 5 along line 6-6.

FIG. 7 is an end cross-sectional view of the proximal shaft of the catheter body shown in FIG. 5 along line 7-7.

FIG. 8 is a side view of a mapping assembly according to the invention.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of a support structure according to the present invention.

FIG. 10 is a side cross sectional view of a portion of the catheter tip section showing one means for attaching the puller wire.

FIG. 11 is a top cross sectional views of a preferred puller wire anchor.

FIG. 12 is a side cross sectional views of the puller wire anchor of FIG. 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

The proximal tubing 33, outer plastic tube 48, protective tube 47 and protective shaft 66 extend from the deflection control handle 16 into the distal end of the needle passage 83, as best shown in ~~AREA A of FIG. 2~~ FIG. 2A, which depicts Area A of FIG. 2. Within the needle passage 83, the proximal tubing 33, outer plastic tube 48, protective tube 47 and protective shaft 66 extend into a first metal tube 90, which is preferably made of stainless steel. If desired, the first metal tube 90 could instead be made of a rigid plastic material. The first metal tube 90 is secured to the outer body 80 of the needle control handle 17 by a set screw 101 or any other suitable means. The protective shaft 66 terminates at its proximal end within the first metal tube 90.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The proximal end of the second metal tube 91 is mounted, preferably coaxially, around the distal end of the tubular distal region 87 of the proximal fitting 86, with the second metal tube being longitudinally movable relative to the tubular distal region 87. Accordingly, when the piston 84 is moved distally relative to the outer body 80, the tubular distal region 87 moves distally into the second metal tube 91. As shown in ~~AREA B of FIG. 2~~ FIG. 2B (which depicts Area B of FIG. 2), the proximal tubing 33 and outer plastic tube 48 extend through the second metal tube 91 and into the tubular distal region 87 of the proximal fitting 86. The outer plastic tube 48 terminates in and is fixedly attached to the proximal fitting 86 to thereby attach the outer plastic tube, and thus the needle electrode assembly 46, to the piston 84. Within the proximal fitting 86, the proximal tubing 33 extends out of the outer plastic tube 48 and into a first protective sheath 31, as shown in ~~AREA C of FIG. 2~~ FIG. 2C (which depicts Area C of FIG. 2), and is connected to a luer connector 65, which is connected to an irrigation pump, or other suitable fluid infusion source (not shown), as is known in the art. Similarly, the needle electrode lead wire 210 and the thermocouple wires 202 and 204 extend out of the outer plastic tube 48

**Appln No. 10/692,714**

**Amdt date March 6, 2006**

**Reply to Office action of November 4, 2005**

and into a second protective sheath **29**, as also shown in ~~AREA C of FIG. 2~~ FIG. 2C (depicting Area C of FIG. 2), which is connected to a suitable connector **67**, such as a 10-pin electrical connector, for connecting the needle electrode lead wire to a source of ablation energy and the thermocouple wires to a suitable monitoring system.